

# PATROL NEWS

September-October 2021

"Over 90 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



See cover page 3.



# Superintendent's Message

Colonel Eric T. Olson



On September 14, 1931, the act creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol became effective. The first superintendent, a man from Bethany, MO, was tasked with organizing the department. Lewis Ellis had served in the U.S. Marine Corps for a short time then worked for the Kansas City Star and Republican-Clipper before becoming executive secretary for newly elected Governor Henry S. Caulfield in 1928. Gov. Caulfield signed the bill creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol on April 24, 1931. In July 1931, Gov. Caulfield named Ellis superintendent of this new organization, making him the first colonel. When the Patrol became effective September 14, there was a lot to be done.

I wonder what Col. Ellis would say about the organization if he could see us today? His guidance laid down a firm foundation for the Patrol and much of what he emphasized remains. The Patrol's first colonel put into place an enforcement rule of "when in doubt, don't." Among other expectations of Col. Ellis was that troopers be courteous, refrain from arguing with a citizen, and never touch a vehicle or driver unless necessary to enforce the law. Col. Ellis set Patrol policy as "the maximum of protection with the minimum of interference," and that troopers would be "gentlemen who enforced the law."

Having served as colonel for the past two and one-half years, I have great appreciation for those who came before me. If he could see us today, I'm sure Col. Ellis would note the increase in responsibility, advancement in technology, the communications capability, and the number of employees. There is no way he could have foreseen the Patrol's ability to reach individual stakeholders via social media or how digital forensics would become a vital investigation tool.

Though we now say, "ladies and gentlemen who enforce the law," the high expectation for all our employees remains. These are trying times for any law enforcement agency, to be sure. Fortunately, we have 90 years of experience and tradition which have led us through other periods that offered difficult challenges. The one constant factor that sees us through every time is the quality of our people throughout the agency. It is the combined effort and contributions of our entire team that makes us proud of our past and optimistic for the future.

*Happy 90th anniversary to the Missouri State Highway Patrol!*

*Eric T. Olson*

The official publication of the  
Missouri State Highway Patrol

*Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News*

## PATROL NEWS

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Sandra K. Karsten, Director  
Department of Public Safety

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# PATROL NEWS

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## Social Media Snapshot



(above) The Patrol's social media platforms heralded the agency's 90th anniversary on September 14, 2021, with this picture showing one vehicle per decade. (below) Lt. Col. Lance MacLaughlin

(l) and Col. Eric Olson hold resolutions from the Missouri House of Representatives and Missouri Senate, as well as a proclamation from Governor Mike Parson recognizing the Patrol's 90th anniversary of service and protection.



## Cover

(l to r) Tpr. Kennon Harrison (I) and Tpr. Keenan Cool (H) stand at the grandstand entrance of the Missouri State Fair. When the tractor pull event began, they paused, faced where the U.S. flag would be inside the stadium, and respectfully listened to our national anthem. Both were happy to be part of the detail. "If I could have the same assignments," said Tpr. Harrison, "I'd volunteer again." He said he enjoyed being allowed to step onto the Boys2Men bus. "They are super cool," agreed Tpr. Cool. "Down to earth." They explained that during events, the detail's job is to be seen, and handle alcohol-impaired individuals and any physical altercations. The verbal judo training comes in handy with the "livelier" crowds.



# The Pandemic • The Auto Manufacturing Industry

**By Director Cathy Brown (Q/FFD)**

If you have driven by any vehicle dealership parking lot over the last several months, you've most likely noticed there is generally a lack of new inventory on the dealer's lots. This reality has negatively impacted the auto industry across the nation, with the Patrol's fleet program realizing the downstream effects. Unfortunately, this issue is directly attributable to the lack of supply of important microchips/semiconductors to auto makers for vehicle production. It is a negative ripple effect from the COVID pandemic.

In a normal, non-pandemic year, the Fleet & Facilities Division would forecast vehicular needs a couple of times a year to ensure we accurately estimate and order the number of vehicles during the year for both pursuit and non-pursuit needs. It is important that our sedans, SUVs, and trucks are not driven over the previously established mileage caps to ensure we receive the highest return on investment when selling our used vehicles.

Then, 2020 arrived and, with it, the pandemic. The first unfortunate situation occurred when the Patrol's order of Chevy Tahoes was canceled in early January 2021. The vehicles had been ordered in the fall 2020, and with no advance warning, General Motors informed us they could not fill all their orders nationwide and had to cancel numerous orders, including ours. Shortly thereafter, Stellantis informed us they were not sure if they would be able to deliver a very large order of Dodge Charger pursuit vehicles prior to the end of last fiscal year, even though we had ordered them last fall as well. Aside from delivery issues, they could not even confirm whether they would be able to produce the entire order. After escalating the issue along with some serious discussions with executives in Detroit, we were able to get written confirmation that they would deliver every unit (vehicle) we ordered, but some would trickle in after the start of the new FY, which

creates its own budgetary headaches. Yet, we were pleased we would at least be receiving the vehicles in such uncertain times! Stellantis made it clear they valued our business and are now delivering on their promise. Also, in the last couple of weeks, a "roll-over" contract was established for a few models and we were able to re-order the Tahoes. (Stay tuned on when we might actually see delivery of those vehicles!)

To exacerbate the situation, in the year prior to the pandemic, the auto manufacturers had begun struggling with various issues. For various reasons, the manufacturers weren't making timely deliveries and cut off their order banks far earlier than what is typical. These struggles trickle down to consumers, and the unknowns challenge FFD's normal forecasting methodologies. After all, we prefer to

be proactive in our vehicle acquisition, rather than reactive to industry struggles!

As we continue to plan and collaborate through this ongoing issue, we have heard rumors from industry peers that the lack of production and/or delivery of vehicles will continue far into year 2022 and maybe into 2023. This will continue to force us to navigate uncharted waters and to ensure we have the best contingency plans as possible in place.

The Patrol's fleet program is one of the very best in the country and there is no doubt we will remain focused and negotiate these issues as smoothly as we can. I appreciate everyone's patience! I am also forever the optimist and believe the auto industry will correct itself in the near future, and we will be back to normal, whatever the new normal may be!



*Pictured with a group of Camden County Junior Sheriff's Academy students are Sergeant Shawn Price and Sergeant David Dinges (both Q-AD). The students were excited to interact with the flight crew and ask questions about the Patrol helicopter's mission and onboard law enforcement radios, camera, and mapping system.*



# Blind Cycling Champion Inspires, Amazes

*By Capt. Bruce D. Fiske (G)*

In early June 2021, the Field Operations Bureau sent out correspondence advising the Blind Odyssey Bike Tour would be coming across the state in mid- to late June, and requesting the affected troops assist with this detail. As most people would, my first thought was, "What is a Blind Odyssey Bike Tour? Surely, it is not a blind person riding a bicycle." As it turned out, not only was I wrong, but I was amazed.

Upon doing some research, I determined that Shawn Cheshire, who is totally blind, was attempting to be the first blind person to ride a bicycle across the United States. Shawn Cheshire joined the U.S. Army in 1994 and served as a helicopter armament systems mechanic for eight years. Following her years in the service, she became an EMT-paramedic. In 2009, during a snowstorm, she slipped while treating a patient in an ambulance and sustained a traumatic brain injury which resulted in total loss of vision.

She has competed for Team USA in both summer and winter sports, being the first visually impaired female athlete to compete for the U.S. Paralympic Nordic ski team. She has proven herself to be an elite multi-sport athlete by winning a gold medal in indoor rowing at the 2014 Invictus Games in London, England. In the last five years, Shawn has raced with the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Team in 20 national and 20 international races. Shawn is an 11-time U.S. national champion.

The Blind Odyssey Bike Tour entered Troop G on June 22, stopping for the day just east of Hartville, MO. On June 23, they left this location to begin an over 60-mile trek to the next stopping point at Alley Springs, MO. During this leg of the trip, Lieutenant Don S. Larsen (G) and I met them along



*Capt. Bruce Fiske and Lt. Don Larsen both (G) rode with Shawn Cheshire, a blind Paralympic athlete riding coast to coast, and her guide, Jesse Crandall, for 20 miles and 28 miles, respectively. This picture shows the group at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Summersville, MO.*

Missouri Highway 17 to ride along with Shawn Cheshire and her guide, Jesse Crandall. It was truly amazing to watch Cheshire as she rode on the rough hilly terrain. Her guide had a speaker playing music on the back of his bicycle. Cheshire would then judge her distance to him based on the sound coming from the speaker.

One of the most amazing feats was how straight she kept her bike, never weaving back and forth like you normally see when someone rides on a road bike. This was really put front and center when we were riding on Missouri Highway 106, and a pit bull

came out of a yard and began chasing us. Both Lt. Larsen and I swerved to avoid the oncoming dog, while Jesse and Shawn continued straight without moving from left to right. I immediately thought if being chased by a pit bull is scary to me, how more terrifying is it when you can't see if the dog is going to bite you or make you crash?

By the time we reached Alley Springs, I was totally amazed at the abilities of this Olympic-caliber athlete and the way Cheshire dealt with and excelled in an activity that is extremely challenging to anyone. This was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.



# Missouri Girls State Is Back

By Cpl. Kyle A. Green (F)

American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State officially kicked off June 20, 2021, after being canceled last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. For those of you who are not familiar with the program, Missouri Girls State was first established in 1940 as one of 11 Girls State programs in the nation. The first session was held at William Woods University in Fulton, MO, in 1940. The program moved around the state over the years as larger facilities were needed. In 1998, it moved to the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO.

The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary's Missouri Girls State is to educate the next generation of potential Missouri government officials and community members who are striving to have a positive impact in their community. Students create a fictitious community and serve in various roles at the city, county, and state levels, including the election of a law enforcement group made up of state troopers. Due to the protocol changes caused by the pandemic, this year's group was reduced from its normal size of 700-800 students to just under 500.

With the promotion of Lieutenant Eric F. Brown (Q/PIED), an ALA Missouri Girls State favorite, Corporal Kelly M. Hoover (A), Trooper Olivia G. Imhoff (F), and myself (F) were assigned to organize the Patrol's curriculum, which presents the various aspects of our organization. In addition to our classes, we were fortunate to have guest speakers come in to discuss the special training they have and speak with the young women. Lieu-

*Members of Troop A's SWAT team explain how they operate and what equipment they use.*



*Cpl. Kelly Hoover (A) and Tpr. Olivia Imhoff (F) staged a traffic stop exercise for attendees of Girls State. Here, Cpl. Hoover watches a Girls State member "stop" Tpr. Imhoff.*



tenant Bradley S. Bearden (D) drove up to discuss the growing number of crimes committed online and the dangers young people face with human trafficking. Trooper Sadie D. Gordon (Q/DDCC) presented information about the complex nature of the crimes and incidents she's investigated. Sergeant R. Brooks McGinnis (A), and K9 Zsolti, were a fan favorite with attendees during his demonstration. Troop A SWAT members, Corporal Josh C. Utz (A) and Trooper Brian R. Peters (A), did a great job talking about their training and showcasing the "tools of the trade."

The American Legion Auxiliary's Missouri Girls State was a huge success and the staff plans on return-



*Sgt. Brooks McGinnis (A) brought K9 Zsolti by Missouri Girls State. Zsolti was quite the celebrity.*

ing to a normal sized group next year. I would like to thank all the officers who took time out of their day to talk with the group and show them what the Missouri State Highway Patrol is truly about. I would especially like to thank Cpl. Hoover and Tpr. Imhoff for being there each day to help put on a great event these young women will remember for years to come.



# Looking Back

## ... in the Patrol News

### 45 years ago

*September 1976* — An officer received a phone call from a distressed woman who asked if a large snake recently escaped from the local circus had been caught. She proceeded to tell him she had gone out onto her back porch and seen a 15- to 20-foot snake. She said she then emptied a “.22-caliber automatic” in its direction and fled. Upon her request, the officer relayed the information to the local sheriff’s department and asked that he respond to the scene. When the sheriff arrived, he discovered, to everyone’s relief, a large 15- to 20-foot limb from a nearby tree had fallen onto the porch and was promptly shot to death by the lady of the house.

### 35 years ago

*October 1986* — Trooper Bob L. Powell (A) stopped a vehicle for excessive speed. He became suspicious of the driver

while they spoke. The driver told him, “Why don’t you go ahead and search my car? I don’t have anything.” The driver then moved to the rear of his vehicle and opened the trunk. Tpr. Powell searched the vehicle and found approximately 100 grams of cocaine, \$6,000, and approximately one-half pound of marijuana.

### 25 years ago

*September 1996* — The 25th annual Rainbow gathering occurred in Oregon County near Thomasville, MO, with around 15,000 Rainbow celebrants in attendance. The attendees claimed the gathering location as their church, the Cathedral of Nature, and that clothing was optional. When troopers entered the area, shouts of “six up” and “guns in church” could be heard. Troop G officers were assigned to the event. Several federal and state law enforcement agencies joined the Patrol for this detail to maintain a safe and secure environment. At one point, Lieutenant J.J. Ewers and

Captain Billy E. Chadwick borrowed a U.S. Forest Service Jeep Cherokee for some much-needed reconnaissance. While they were driving through the area, an attendee decided the top of the vehicle was an excellent dance platform and proceeded to do a new dance. She was removed from the mobile platform before the dance was over and just after the top of the vehicle made contact with the troopers’ heads. (The gathering ended peacefully.)

### 15 years ago

*September/October 2006* — Both Colonel Roger D. Stottlemire and Lieutenant Colonel Bill K. Seibert retired. The 85th Recruit Class graduation was featured. Otto—The Talking Car helped a young man propose to his girlfriend.

### 5 years ago

*September/October 2016* — The MSHP negotiators earned third place at the Missouri Association of Crisis Negotiators Challenge in Columbia, MO. The Patrol’s first Youth Academy took place. The first Leadership in Police Organizations’ instructor training took place. Trooper Andy B. Ward (D) rescued an injured bald eagle at Table Rock Lake.

## HONORING A FALLEN HERO

*By Lt. Douglas J. Hedrick (A)*

Boy Scout Troop 222 from Stewartville, MO, offered their help in beautifying the Sergeant Robert “Bob” Kimberling Memorial located at the NE Interchange of Interstate 29 and U.S. Highway 169. Troop 222 mowed, pulled weeds, and trimmed around the memorial to earn community service hours needed for rank advancement.

Troop H Building & Grounds Maintenance II Kevin J. Taylor, an active volunteer for Troop 222, said, “The boys have to have a certain amount of community service hours for each rank, and I knew about this yearly clean-up project from my coworkers at Troop H. I asked if our troop could make this their community service project. The boys and Scout leaders did a good job of cleaning up around the memorial, while honoring Missouri State Highway Patrol Sergeant Kimberling.”

Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. II Taylor said it was rewarding for the boys to work on this project together and show their respect to one of Missouri’s heroes.





# DPS Recognizes Sgt. Hedrick, Cpl. Nelson

*By Lt. Ed Aylward (Q/GD)*

On Tuesday, July 13, Sergeant J. Todd Hedrick and Corporal Dave R. Nelson (both Q/GD) were recognized as the June 2021 Missouri Department of Public Safety Sworn Team Members of the Month. Their selection was a result of the following incident.

On December 5, 2020, Sgt. Hedrick and Cpl. Nelson responded to a vehicle in the River City Casino parking garage located in South St. Louis County. Their contact with two individuals led them to request and gain consent to search the vehicle, which yielded numerous syringes and pill capsules containing Fentanyl. During extended interviews, the suspects told the troopers they purchased the Fentanyl in a hotel room at the casino.

Additional investigation identified two subjects in the hotel room, both of whom had numerous felony arrest warrants. Sgt. Hedrick and Cpl. Nelson, with the assistance of the St. Louis County Police, contacted the occupants of the hotel room. Both were arrested without incident. A search of the hotel room revealed an active “pill mill,” illegally manufacturing pill capsules containing narcotics. Loose Fentanyl powder, pill capsules, pill presses, and a loaded firearm were found in the room. Over 90 grams of pure Fentanyl was seized.

Sgt. Hedrick’s and Sgt. Nelson’s fine investigative work led to four arrests and the seizure of deadly narcotics, preventing them from reaching the public and potential Fentanyl overdoses.

“As the director of the Gaming Division, I want to express the tremendous pride our staff experienced in the recent recognition bestowed upon Sgt. Hedrick and Cpl. Nelson,” said Capt. Larry W. Plunkett II. “While the event initiating this nomination was certainly a significant arrest, it is only a small sample of the work these two outstanding officers routinely provide during



*DPS Director Sandra Karsten presents the June 2021 DPS Sworn Team Members of the Month award to Sgt. Todd Hedrick and Cpl. Dave Nelson (both Q/GD).*

their duties at River City Casino. In fact, I feel compelled to suggest the variety of investigations and arrests conducted by Cpl. Nelson and Sgt. Hedrick are among the most diverse, professional, and public safety-based investigations conducted on the Patrol. Todd and Dave are equally outstanding men in their private lives who take great pride in their families, their communities, and the rewards associated with hard work

and service to Missouri’s citizens. We are very thankful and blessed to have these two, and many more like them, in the Gaming Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.”

Congratulations to Sgt. Hedrick and Cpl. Dave Nelson for being selected as the DPS Sworn Team Members of the Month for June 2021.

## Integrity

“Integrity, the choice between what’s convenient and what’s right.”

— Tony Dungy (former NFL Coach), *Uncommon*

# Cpls. Wilson, West Recognized For Investigative Work

By Sgt. Clark D. Parrott (E)

Corporals Jonathan T. Wilson and John J. West (Q/DDCC) accepted the July 2021 Department of Public Safety Sworn Team Members of the Month award at a presentation August 3, 2021, at Troop E Headquarters. The two investigators were recognized for their criminal investigative work, which led to an arrest and multiple sexual assault and child pornography charges.

On Feb. 5, 2021, Corporals Wilson and West were contacted by two citizens at Troop E Headquarters in Poplar Bluff, MO. The citizens suspected a Ripley County man was in possession of child pornography and was stealing

children's undergarments from area homes.

Corporals Wilson and West contacted the suspect at his residence and interviewed him. As a result of their skills and investigative experience, the suspect confessed to possessing child pornography on his cellphone and to stealing the undergarments of young girls for his sexual gratification. During a second interview, the suspect admitted to molesting five children.

Their hard work and dedication prevented a child predator from victimizing additional children. This is the second time each officer has been

the DPS Sworn Team Members of the Month.

Captain Paul D. Kerperin (Q/DDCC) was unable to attend the ceremony, but told the *Patrol News*, "I applaud the efforts Corporals Wilson and West put forth to bring this unfortunate case to a successful resolution. Because of their thorough investigation of the complaint, they were able to identify previously unknown victims. Their dedication to protecting all Missouri citizens is greatly appreciated."

Congratulations, Cpl. Wilson and Cpl. West!



(from l to r) Pictured are Major Sarah Eberhard (Q/CIB), DPS Deputy Director Kevin Bond, Cpl. Jonathan Wilson (Q/DDCC), Cpl. John West (Q/DDCC), Lt. Donnie Crump (Q/DDCC), Sgt. Jeremy Stoelting (Q/DDCC), and Col. Eric Olson.



# 111th Recruit Class Graduates 29 New Troopers

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

July 23, 2021 was a warm, sunny day. Friends, family, and co-workers gathered on the Missouri Capitol's South Lawn to see 29 new troopers say their Oath of Office. They came from three states, Missouri, Texas, and Illinois, and those from Missouri hailed from both urban and rural areas of the state. All of them were focused on reaching this day.

Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe, the keynote speaker for the event, chatted with the 111th Recruit Class as they waited for the graduation ceremony to begin. His interest was genuine, as was his sense of humor. "So, an hour and 45 minutes too long for comments?" he asked.

Later, during his keynote speech, he encouraged them saying, "Some people will treat you with the dignity and respect you deserve." Lt. Gov. Kehoe told the new troopers to be part of their community and reminded them Missourians expect to be represented by the most fair, gracious, and professional law enforcement. He also implored them to be smart and safe and to faithfully perform their duties. "Thank you. You have proven yourselves worthy of the uniform you wear," the lieutenant governor said.

Col. Olson also spoke to the class during the graduation. He recalled meeting with each member of the 111th Recruit Class and speaking with them about their training experience

*The graduation ceremony begins with the 111th Recruit Class marching to their seats.*



and career expectations. The colonel said he took the opportunity to discuss with each recruit the challenges facing law enforcement today.

"I asked you how you were going to impact public safety in Missouri as a trooper and what you planned to do to improve the image of law enforcement in this country. You mentioned the best way to enhance public safety and make a positive impression is 'one con-

tact at a time,'" said the colonel. "You stated that getting to know people in the areas you serve and taking time to listen will go a long way toward building and enhancing successful relationships. It is interesting to note that in 1931, Colonel Lewis Ellis explained to our first troopers that they must take time to visit with the farmer and the businessman, and to answer the questions of the curious youth."



*Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe served as keynote speaker for the ceremony.*



*Members of the 111th Recruit Class salute during the singing of the National Anthem.*



## — Graduates

Continued from page 10.

“... while you have spent six months learning the Core Values, they don’t stay here when you leave,” said Col. Olson. “We agree that if anything, they become even more important and a vital step in your decision-making process. ... mistakes will be made, but it is not normally the mistake that has long lasting effects. However, your reaction to it may.” The colonel ended his remarks by recognizing “the great effort you and your families have made to be here.” He also wished the new troopers great success and offered his support as they began this next chapter of their Patrol career.

When the class commander, Trooper James E. Williams, addressed his classmates, he cautioned them to expect the unexpected and have a plan B, C, and D. “Remain professional and compassionate,” he said. “Right is right and wrong is wrong.” He encouraged his classmates by reminding them there are many “communities who support us.” Tpr. Williams closed his remarks by sharing President Theodore Roosevelt’s words from his “Man In The Arena” speech.

Congratulations, 111th Recruit Class!



*Trooper Eric J. Smith (B) accepted the Superintendent's Award from Col. Eric Olson (l) with congratulations from Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe (r).*

The 111th Recruit Class reported to the Academy on February 1, 2021, to begin the 25-week training to become a trooper. The new troopers reported to duty in their assigned troops on August 9, 2021. The names (hometowns) and first assignments of members of the 111th Recruit Class are listed below:

### **Troop A**

Aaron K. Booker (Blue Springs, MO), Zone 7, Jackson County  
Devan J. Harms (Kansas City, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County  
Colten B. Henderson (Spokane, MO), Zone 14, Bates County  
Nathaniel J. Medrano (Independence, MO), Zone 12, Johnson County  
Derek R. Peters (Sedalia, MO), Zone 10, Saline County  
Ryan K. Stearns (Marshall, MO), Zone 3, Clay County

### **Troop B**

Ezekiel G. Schieferdecker (Hurdland, MO), Zone 4, Putnam/Sullivan Counties  
Eric J. Smith (Hannibal, MO), Zone 7, Lewis/Knox Counties  
Elijah N. Stinson (Poplar Bluff, MO), Zone 3, Linn/Chariton Counties

### **Troop C**

Cyle C. Battreal (Pomona, MO), Zone 16, Ste. Genevieve/Perry Counties  
Dylan H. Bert (Cypress, TX), Zone 8, St. Charles County  
Almedin Birdzo (St. Louis, MO), Zone 5, Pike/Lincoln Counties  
Collin P. Brown (Ballwin, MO), Zone 11, Franklin County  
Zachary T. Chastain (Crane, MO), Zone 10, Franklin County  
Raymond M. Dressler (St. Louis, MO), Zone 7, Warren County  
Christopher A. Gates (St. Ann, MO), Zone 1, N. St. Louis County  
Kaleig A. Mitchell (Overland Park, KS), Zone 5, Pike/Lincoln Counties  
Matthew Smith (Ballwin, MO), Zone 4, S. St. Louis County  
Jeffrey J. Wilt (Shelbina, MO), Zone 14, St. Francois/Washington Counties

### **Troop D**

Levi H. Crowe (Carthage, MO), Zone 3, Polk County  
Joshua T. Martin (Sarcoxi, MO), Zone 13, Newton/McDonald Counties

### **Troop E**

James E. Williams (Charleston, MO), Zone 6, Scott/Mississippi/New Madrid Counties  
David L. McKnight (Sikeston, MO), Zone 7, Scott/Mississippi/New Madrid Counties  
Roberto C. Rodriguez Penaflor (Senath, MO), Zone 11, Stoddard County

### **Troop F**

Samuel L. Ponder (New Bloomfield, MO), Zone 3, Boone County

### **Troop G**

Kenneth H. Hall (Ellsinore, MO), Zone 8, Carter/Reynolds Counties

### **Troop H**

Molly H. Gach (St. Joseph, MO), Zone 6, Buchanan/Andrew Counties

### **Troop I**

Troyjacob E. Ebeling (Rolla, MO), Zone 9, Crawford County  
Samuel J. Hallam (Joplin, MO), Zone 8, Laclede County



# Why Choose The MSHP?

**By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)**

What motivates someone to choose a career of service as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol? The answers to that question are as diverse as the people who choose a career in law enforcement. For some, growing up around law enforcement influences them. For others, an experience shapes their life's path. The career opportunities within the Patrol can be part of the decision, too. No matter what specific reason is given, there is always a desire to serve and protect.

Just before graduation and with the assistance of the class commander, now Trooper James E. Williams (E), I posed this question to the 111th Recruit Class. Why did they become a trooper?

"What made me want to apply to the Missouri State Highway Patrol to be a trooper was that my father was killed by a drunk driver when I was five years old," said Tpr. Nathaniel J. Medrano (A). "I have been wanting to be in law enforcement since high school, but it wasn't until my junior year of college when I decided being a state trooper was the route I wanted to go. I learned that troopers specialize in DWI and roadway safety. After speaking to a recruiter and some troopers that I know personally, I was informed how much training and practice the Academy gives the recruits, so they succeed on the

*New Tpr. Sam Ponder (F) holds a picture of his deceased grandfather, Cpl. Leo Gentry, in this photo with his dad, Chief Oper. Rocky Ponder (Q/CommD).*



road enforcing the law. I want to do all I can to learn, enroll in advanced training, and do my very best to keep the roadways of Missouri safe for all who travel through our state. That way, someone else does not have to lose a family member or friend."

"When I was around eight years old, my parents got divorced," said Trooper Levi H. Crowe (D). "My mother left my father because he was addicted to meth and refused to change. When my mother left and

took me with her, my father started making meth and selling it. He was arrested and put into prison. My mother wanted me to have a relationship with my dad, if I wanted one. I remember going to visit him in prison. I was actually relieved, because I knew he was clean and alive. Meanwhile, my mother and I went to a church in Joplin, MO, and one of the members was Trooper [now Corporal] John Mason. I remember always looking up to him and how smart and compassionate he was. When I was 14, I knew I wanted to be a police officer and possibly save other families from the heartache my family went through. I went through a criminal justice class in high school. During the class, the Highway Patrol came in every day for a whole week and showed us different divisions of the Patrol. I eventually did a ride-along with Tpr. Mason, and I knew I wanted to be a trooper. My father got out of prison and stayed clean. He is still off drugs to this day and is doing well."

Thank you, Tpr. Medrano and Tpr. Crowe, for sharing your personal stories with us. May your career be safe, successful, and lengthy!



*The 111th Recruit Class is seated and ready to graduate!*



# Mo State Fair: A Look Behind The Scenes

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

Lt. Barry A. Kumpf (A) learned he would serve as officer-in-charge for the 2021 Missouri State Fair in May 2020. Troop A has moved to a two-year rotation for the assignment to share the responsibility. Lt. Kumpf has a detailed binder complete with a checklist of what to do when. He started planning this year's detail in April 2021.

"There's no reason to re-invent the wheel," said Lt. Kumpf. "Each OIC fine tunes and adds notes." He said once the detail list is finalized, he moves on to determining assignments—who will work what areas of the fair and

*MVI II Tim Shawhan (D) came to the fairgrounds for a couple of days to work at a recruiting table. "The kids are the most fun," he said. "They are friendly and polite. When they get a sticker, their parents remind them to say, 'Thank you for your service.' I enjoy coming here for a couple days."*



*Sgt. Matt Goodson (D) and Sgt. Timmy Shoop (B) were on bike patrol. Both have volunteered to serve on the fair detail for several years. Sgt. Shoop said he specifically requests the bike patrol. "We patrol the whole fairgrounds. We can respond the quickest." Sgt. Goodson and Sgt. Shoop said although they had responded to a golf cart crash, nothing out of the ordinary had occurred on their shifts this year. "We get flagged down to help with medical situations and lost children mostly," said Sgt. Shoop.*



*Tpr. Easton Corcoran (F) was handling traffic through Gate 6 before rotating to the Centennial Gate followed by the Main Gate. "Gate Six is the most interactive because it has the least amount of traffic," said Tpr. Corcoran. You must have a red card to come through this entrance to the fairgrounds. Many of the drivers pause with questions as they move past the gate or turn into its driveway. "It's a good detail," said Tpr. Corcoran. "It's hot, but if that's your only complaint, that's a pretty good day. Most of the interactions are positive."*

roommate assignments in the 50 hotel rooms used by the detail during their stay in Sedalia, MO. "I like the planning, putting the puzzle together," he said. Lt. Kumpf said Lt. W. Shane Sims (H), assistant officer-in-charge of the detail, helped with items on the checklist, which familiarized him with the planning of a large-scale event. Automotive Technician Supervisor Sean D. Jacobs (A) and Building & Grounds Supervisor Don D. Linn (A) also took care of several items on the list.

Some members of the Patrol's State Fair detail volunteer and some are assigned. But most seem to enjoy the duties that come with providing service and protection for the event. It's a change of pace, something different from their normal assignments. On Monday, August 16, I dropped by the fairgrounds to find out what was happening. A lost purse was delivered to the State Fair detail's office, troopers were out and about, and Otto-The Talking Car was entertaining children of all ages. Behind the scenes, Auto. Tech. Sprv. Jacobs was ... everywhere. For almost every year since 1998, he has provided emergency maintenance on vehicles, gators, and golf carts for the Patrol. He sets up the Patrol's ve-

*Continued on the next page.*



## – Fair

*Continued from page 13.*

hicle/vessel display, puts up the various tents providing personnel shade during the fair, places cones for the parade, and makes sure MoDOT's



*Asst. Comm. Oper. Beth Hoerman (A) said most contacts are medical calls which are relayed to the troopers on bike patrol. There's a lost and found box getting regular deposits. "A lot of people lose their cell phone," said ACO Hoerman. It's ACO Hoerman's first State Fair detail. "It's definitely a change of pace," she said. The day I dropped in was calm, but I was told the weekends are busy.*

electronic signs are in the right locations.

"I've met people from around the state," said Auto. Tech. Sprv. Jacobs about his repeating State Fair assignment. "The fair is the only time

you see them. I bring my own tools and work out of the MoDOT bays. They are fantastic to us." Today's special assignment? "I replaced an inner tube on a bike." He said if it gets busy, he'll deliver water and Gatorade to Patrol employees. "One of the best parts about working the State Fair detail is we have a good bunch running it."



*"This is my 14th year on the State Fair detail," said Lt. Kumpf (A). "I love it."*

## *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

**Christopher L. Drenon**  
Sergeant  
Troop A

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
31 years of dedicated service.*



**A. Keith Howery**  
Corporal  
Q/GD

*Retired July 1, 2021.  
28 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*



**Kent A. Brackett**  
Sergeant  
Troop I

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
25 years, one month  
of dedicated service.*



**Chelsea N. Chanel**  
Accounting Specialist II  
Q/BPD

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
23 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*





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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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## **Chris A. Couch**

CDL Exam. Auditor  
Troop F

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
25 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Kyle E. Cullifer**

CVO Sprv. I  
Troop B

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
32 years, one month  
of dedicated service.*



## **Connie E. Farrow**

Assistant Director  
Q/MIAC

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
30 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Jonna L. Halavats**

DE III  
Troop C

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
Seven years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Tamie L. Quigley**

Special Asst.  
Q/FOB

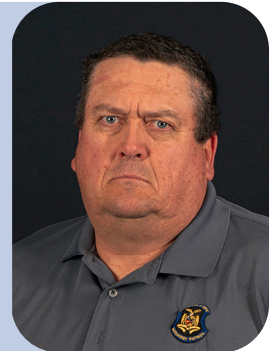
*Retired August 1, 2021.  
18 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Jack A. Thomason**

Marine Mechanic  
Q/FFD

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
17 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **J. Todd Vermillion**

Sergeant  
Troop D

*Retired August 1, 2021.  
25 years, one month  
of dedicated service.*



## **Illa J. Burk**

DE Sprv.  
Troop A

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
21 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*



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# ***Congratulations On Your Retirement!***

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**Danial E. Dicus**

Sergeant  
Troop I

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
25 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



**Jeffrey K. Herzer**

Comm. Oper. III  
Troop H

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
13 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



**Vickie A. Kleffner**

Special Asst.  
Q/TND

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
41 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



**Dan F. Nash**

Sergeant  
Q/DDCC

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
26 years, eight months  
of dedicated service.*



**Lowell W.  
Sanders**

Corporal  
Troop G

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
27 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*



**Jan D. Scheibeler**

CITS II  
Q/CJISD

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
29 years, seven months  
of dedicated service.*



**Lynn M.  
Stegeman**

Special Asst.  
Q/PSD

*Retired September 1, 2021.  
38 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*





# Deaths

## Douglas R. Henry



Douglas "Doug" R. Henry, 71, of Kansas City, MO, died Thursday, May 6, 2021, at his home after a long battle with cancer. Doug grew up and attended school in Tarkio, MO, before serving in the U.S. Army as a medic. Afterward, he resumed his education at Northwest Missouri State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, and education specialist. He devoted more than 33 years to education, serving as a teacher and principal. In 2006, Doug joined the Patrol as a driver examiner in the Troop A area. He retired in 2011. Doug is survived by his wife, Bonnie, their three children, eight granddaughters, and siblings. The family suggests memorial donations be made to St. Elizabeth Parish Capital Campaign or student assistance funds for Tarkio or Brookfield High School. If sending a check please write in the memo: Doug Henry Memorial. To learn more about Doug, visit the Minter Funeral Chapels Inc. website at <https://minterfuneralchapels.com/obituaries/douglas-r-henry/1124/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Henry family.

## Norma J. Stovall



Norma J. (Jarvis) Stovall, 92, died Thursday, June 24, 2021. Norma joined the Patrol in 1983 as a housekeeper at Troop C and retired in 1998 after 15 years of service. She was the beloved wife of Delmer D. Stovall who preceded her in death in 2010. Survivors include three children, four grandchildren, and a sister. The family suggests memorials be made to Heartland Hospice. For more information, visit the Schrader Funeral Home and Crematory website at <https://www.schrader.com/obituary/norma-stovall-nee-jarvis>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stovall family.

## Reida M. Lawrence



Reida M. Lawrence, 87, of Lee's Summit, MO, died on June 29, 2021. She graduated from Cunningham High School in 1951. Reida earned an associate degree at Murray State

University in Murray, KY. She worked as a legal secretary and taught ballroom dancing. In 1976, she joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a stenographer for Troop A. She retired in July 1998 after 22 years. Reida is survived by her husband of 65 years, William Rudy Lawrence, three children, four grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and many nephews, in-laws, cousins, and friends. The family suggests memorials be made to Connection Point Church, 501 NE Missouri Road, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086. To learn more about Reida's life, visit the Charter Funerals website at <https://www.charterfunerals.com/obituary/reida-lawrence>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Lawrence family.

## Richard N. Terrell



Richard N. "Dick" Terrell, 83, a lifelong resident of Macon, MO, died Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at the Macon Healthcare Center in Macon, MO. Dick served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as a military police officer. After his service, he joined the Patrol as a member of the 25th Recruit Class on April 1, 1962. After a decorated career of 33 years in Troop B, he retired August 30, 1994. Dick is survived by his wife of 47 years, Vada Terrell, four children, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother, several nieces and nephews, and many friends in the community. To learn

*Continued on the next page.*

# Deaths

## – Terrell

*Continued from page 17.*

more, visit Greening-Eagan-Hayes Funeral Homes website at <https://www.greeningeaganhayes.com/obituary/richard-terrell>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Terrell family.

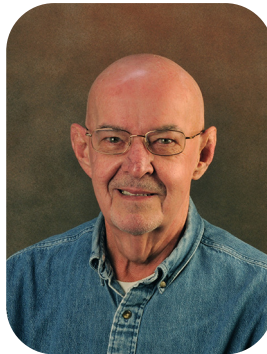
## Donald R. Richardson



Donald R. “Don” Richardson, 75, of Springfield, MO, died Friday, July 16, 2021, at Mercy Hospital, in Springfield, MO. He graduated from Eldon High School. Don earned a Bachelor of Science in education from Central Missouri State University. Later, he earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Drury University in Springfield, MO, and a Master of Science in criminal justice from Central Missouri State University (now University of Central Missouri) in Warrensburg, MO. He taught and coached high school students until he joined the Patrol. Don was appointed to the Patrol on September 14, 1969, as a member of the 39th Recruit Class. He retired as a sergeant after 35 years of service on September 1, 2004. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Linda, a son, stepdaughter, two stepsons, 11 grandchildren, brothers, additional family members, and many friends. The family requests memorial donations be made to The Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Soci-

ety, The MASTERS, 780 County Road 383, Whitewater, Missouri 63785 or the Ozarks Genealogical Society, PO Box 3945, Springfield, Missouri 65808. To learn more about Don, visit the J.D. Lee and Sons Inc. Funeral Home website at <https://www.jdleeandsons.com/obituaries/Don-Richardson?obId=21723447#/obituaryInfo>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Richardson family.

## John R. Noyes



John R. Noyes, 92, Kearney, NE, died July 22, 2021. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 359. He served faithfully and honorably as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol stationed at Troop H in St. Joseph for 32 years. John retired as a sergeant. John is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sharlyn Bogner, daughters, son, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as Sharlyn’s children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. John was preceded in death by one daughter. He bequeathed his body to the University of Kansas School of Medicine. The family kindly requests memorial donations be made to KU Medical Center Willard Body Program at KU Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd. MS 3038, Kansas City, KS 66160, or The MASTERS (the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society) at The MASTERS, 780 County Road 383, Whitewater, MO 63785. For more information

about John, visit the O’Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home website at <https://www.osrfh.com/obituaries/John-Noyes-3/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Noyes family.

## Robert E. Gartner



Robert E. “Bob” Gartner, 74, of Lohman, died Friday, July 23, 2021, at St. Mary’s Hospital. Bob was a 1964 graduate of Hillsboro High School, attended Jefferson College and graduated in 1970 from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science. He also completed the Northwestern University Traffic Institute Training Program in 1980. Bob worked for the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a trooper from 1971, working through the ranks, until his retirement in 2000 as a captain and director of the Criminal Records Identification Division. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sandi Gartner, three children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three siblings, and numerous extended family members. Memorials are suggested to St. Martin Catholic Church, Vitae Foundation, or to The MASTERS. For more information about Bob’s life, visit the Dulle Trimble Funeral Home website at <https://www.dulletrimble.com/obituaries/Robert-Bob-Gartner?obId=21777988>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Gartner family.



# Deaths

## Merle L. Graham



Merle L. Graham, 85, of Seneca, died August 1, 2021, at Freeman West Hospital in Joplin, MO. After high school, he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. He returned to Seneca and was voted in as the city marshal. In 1968, Merle joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a member of the 36th Recruit Class. He retired in 1991. Merle was preceded in death by a granddaughter. He is survived by his wife, Judy, his children, his grandchildren, great-grandchild, and a brother. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the McDonald County Histori-

cal Society or the Shriner's Children's Hospital in care of the Campbell-Biddlecome Funeral Home, P.O. Box 380, Seneca, MO 64865. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Graham family.

## Gary H. Bowers



Gary H. Bowers, 74, of Smithville, MO, died on August 11, 2021. He graduated from Cameron High School in Cameron, MO. Gary joined the Patrol as a member of the 35th Recruit Class on February 4, 1968, and served for 31 years before retiring as a sergeant. He is survived by his wife, Ronda, four

daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a sister, and two brothers. The family suggests any memorials be made to Wayside Waifs, 3901 Martha Truman Road, Kansas City, MO 64137. To learn more about Gary's life, visit the Terrace Park Funeral Home & Cemetery website at <https://www.terraceparkfuneralhome.com/obituary/Gary-Bowers>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Bowers family.

## Thank You

I would like to thank the Patrol family for the support my family and I have received after the passing of my mother and my wife's father. Your presence at the visitation and funeral, as well as your prayers and condolences, will never be forgotten. God bless and thank you!

*Cpl. Coby G. Holzschuh (F) and family*

## Sympathy

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:*

Asst. Chief Oper. Bobbi J. Tyler (I) - father  
Cpl. Ralicia A. Tyler (I) - husband's grandfather  
Ret. Col. Ron K. Repogle - mother  
Ret. Clerk Typist III Delores E. Struempf - husband  
Tpr. Cole P. Justice (H) - grandfather  
Ret. CVO II Kenny G. Williams - father  
CVO Sprv. I Ryne S. Branum (E) - grandmother  
Cpl. Kaleb F. Jeffers (H) - grandmother  
CVO II Tony S. Adair (E) - grandmother  
Sgt. Scott R. Richardson (Q/FOB) - father  
Chief CVO Vonda K. Smith (A) - father  
Ret. Capt. I. Dave Smith - father-in-law

Ret. Chief CVE Insp. Jim E. VanZandt - father-in-law  
Chief Tech. Mike H. Gartner (Q/CommD) - father  
Ret. CVE Sprv. II H. Steve Carlyle - father  
Tpr. Matt H. Riley (B) - grandmother  
CVE Insp. Sprv. I Jane M. McClurg (H) - brother  
Ret. Sgt. Tom M. Scott - mother  
Tpr. Tristen D. Jackson (A) - mother  
Comm. Oper. II Alicia D. Nelson (A) - husband  
Tpr. Brian N. Raney (H) - wife's grandmother  
Capt. Steve V. Wilhoit (A) - father  
Ret. Col. Weldon L. Wilhoit - brother  
Sgt. Mark A. Wilhoit (H) - uncle

Ret. Sgt. D. Scott Reed (Q/GD) - mother  
CVO Sprv. I Dale R. Smotherman (G) - father  
Ret. Col. Roger D. Stottlemire - mother  
CJIS Specialist II Shelby R. Veit (Q/CJISD) - grandfather  
CJIS Program Mgr. Amanda E. Libbert (Q/CJISD) - father-in-law  
Capt. Eddie A. Blaylock (I) - mother-in-law  
Ret. Capt. David P. Perkins - mother-in-law  
Clerk Typist III Luann K. Urban (H) - father  
Ret. CVO Sprv. I A. Wayne Urban (H) - father-in-law

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: [mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov) • Home Page: <http://www.statepatrol.dps.mo.gov> [www.facebook.com/motrooper](https://www.facebook.com/motrooper)



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@MSHPTrooperG @MSHPTrooperH @MSHPTrooperI @MSHPTrooperDDCC @MSHPColonel @MSHPRecruiting @MSHP\_CVE

## Sgt. Griffin Named SPPAD Instructor Of The Year

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

Sergeant Aaron K. Griffin (Q/TND) recently accepted the State & Provincial Police Academy Directors' "Instructor of the Year Award" for 2021. Sgt. Griffin was recognized for being a forward-thinking, innovative instructor who looks for ways to improve existing training, offer new training, and increase officer safety.

After researching emerging trends and best practices extensively, Sgt. Griffin designed, tested, honed, and implemented a three-day course titled "Armed Encounters & High-Risk Traffic Stops." This course provides officers with the tactical strategies needed to prevail in an armed encounter during a traffic stop. Prior to the creation of this class, the only formal training officers received relative to conducting traffic stops came during recruit school, where limited training hours provided only the basics of how to make a traffic stop. Sgt. Griffin determined there was a glaring need for training the tactical aspects of how to prevail specifically in deadly, close-

quarters, vehicle stop encounters.

Sgt. Griffin has also been the catalyst for, and coordinator of, what is now an ongoing Active Threat Response program in the Highway Patrol. Through classroom instruction and practical application scenarios, students are taught the best ways to survive, and stop an active threat in the workplace, school, or other locations.

This class is tailored to fit both of officer's responses as well as what to do as a civilian when confronted with one of these threats. Additionally, Sgt. Griffin played a key role in the proposed changes to the Highway Patrol's Physical Fitness Standards program. At a ceremony August 18, Colonel Eric T. Olson presented the "Instructor of the Year Award" to Sgt. Griffin on behalf of SPPAD while the group met via Zoom.



*Sgt. Aaron Griffin (Q/TND) accepts the SPPAD "Instructor of the Year Award." Col. Eric Olson presented the award on behalf of the group.*

"I know you are not one for individual accolades," the colonel said. "I appreciate that. But, I will say I appreciate your dedication to the agency. This award is well deserved."

"I appreciate it," said Sgt. Griffin, during a short interview after the presentation. "I appreciate being nominated."

*Congratulations, Sgt. Griffin!*